

**Help Workers Hurt by the Recession:** High unemployment and rising costs have outpaced Americans' paychecks. We will help workers train and find jobs, and help struggling families make ends meet. Every dollar in unemployment or food stamp creates at least \$1.63 in economic activity, as these funds are spent quickly.

- Extending and Improving Unemployment Benefits
- Continues through December 2009 the extended unemployment benefits program (which provides up to 33 weeks of extended benefits) that is otherwise scheduled to begin to phase out at the end of March 2009 – thereby helping an additional 3.5 million jobless workers.
- Increases unemployment benefits for 20 million jobless workers by \$25 per week, and encourages states to modernize their UI systems to keep up with the changing workforce with expanded coverage.
- Temporarily suspends the taxation of some unemployment benefits.
- Every dollar in unemployment benefits creates at least \$1.63 in economic activity, according to chief economist Mark Zandi of Moody's Economy.com.

- Increasing Food Stamp Benefits
- Provides \$19.9 billion for food stamps, increasing food stamp benefits by over 13% to help offset rising food costs for more than 31 million Americans, half of whom are children.
- Every dollar of food stamps creates at least \$1.73 in economic activity, according to chief economist Mark Zandi of Moody's Economy.com.

- Increasing Other Food Assistance
- Provides other food assistance, including \$100 million for Emergency Food and Shelter to help local community organizations provide food and shelter; \$100 million for formula grants to states for elderly nutrition services including Meals on Wheels; and \$150 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program to purchase commodities for food banks to refill emptying shelves.

- Helping Workers Find Jobs
- Provides funding to help workers find jobs, including \$3.95 billion for job training including formula grants for adult job training, dislocated worker job training, and youth services (including \$1.2 billion to create up to one million summer jobs for youth); \$500 million for Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants to help persons with disabilities prepare for gainful employment; \$500 million to match unemployed individuals to job openings through state employment agencies; and \$120 million to provide community service jobs to an additional 24,000 low-income older Americans.

- Expanding Housing Assistance
- Increases support for several critical housing programs, including providing \$2 billion for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to help communities purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed, vacant properties and \$1.5 billion for the Emergency Shelter Grant program to

provide short-term rental assistance and other aid for families during the economic crisis.

- Providing Aid to Seniors, Disabled Veterans, and SSI Recipients
  - Provides a payment of \$250 to retirees, disabled individuals and SSI recipients receiving benefits from the Social Security Administration, Railroad Retirement beneficiaries, and disabled veterans receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
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- Extending TAA
  - Extends Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits for at least 160,000 new workers over the next two years who lose their jobs because of increased imports or factory shifts to any foreign countries.